

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN JANUARY 2004

The reported domestic primary aluminum production in January was 216,171 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,973 t, 2% lower than that of the previous month and 11% below the rate for January 2003. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 73.850 cents per pound in December 2003 to 76.625 cents per pound in January 2004, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) increased several times during the month of January. The price range began the month at 53.5–55 cents per pound. On January 6, the price range rose to 56–57 cents per pound. On January 13, the price range increased and widened to 57–59 cents per pound, and, on January 28, it increased again to 58.5–60 cents per pound.

2003 U.S. Trade

Total imports for consumption of aluminum in 2003 increased 2% compared with those of 2002. Imports were higher in two of the three categories detailed in table 6: Metal and alloys and semifabricated materials both increased 3%, but aluminum scrap

imports decreased about 6%. Canada remained the largest shipper of aluminum materials to the United States, supplying 60% of total U.S. imports in 2003.

Total aluminum exports in 2003 decreased 3% compared with those of 2002. Canada, China, and Mexico were the major recipients of U.S. aluminum materials, accounting for more than 80% of total U.S. exports in 2003.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased significantly from 76.625 cents per pound in January to 81.500 cents per pound in February. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs continued to increase during February: On February 3, the price range increased to 59–61 cents per pound; on February 10, 60–62 cents per pound; on February 17, 61.5–63.5 cents per pound; on February 19, 62–64 cents per pound; and finally, on February 24, the price range increased to 62.5–64.5 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2003 ^p	2,703	1,770	1,170	2,930	2,870	822	3,690	9,320	1,310
2003:									
January	242	152	96	248	215	69	284	774	1,350
February	220	153	88	241	246	64	310	771	1,390
March	238	143	89	232	350	71	421	891	1,400
April	225	143	99	242	202	69	272	739	1,350
May	228	150	106	256	265	69	335	819	1,400
June	221	139	102	240	261	66	327	789	1,360
July	226	140	97	236	233	74	307	770	1,360
August	225	153	100	253	194	67	261	739	1,340 ^r
September	217	152	98	249	215	70	284	751	1,310 ^r
October	224	154	105	259	210	72	281	765	1,290 ^r
November	215	147	99	246	233	67	301	761	1,290 ^r
December	221	139 ^r	87 ^r	226 ^r	243	64	306	754	1,310
2004:									
January	216	156	84	240	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Includes scrap; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
	1,660	1,230	858	739	898	838	133	120	6	6	3,560	2,930
2003 ^p												
2003:												
January	147	109	70	60	72	67	12	11	1	1	301	248
February	147	109	66	57	68	64	11	10	(2)	(2)	293	241
March	140	103	59	50	73	69	10	9	1	1	282	232
April	137	102	75	65	71	66	10	9	1	1	294	242
May	143	106	82	71	74	68	11	10	1	1	311	256
June	143	106	74	64	65	60	11	10	1	1	293	240
July	122	89	75	64	78	73	11	10	(2)	(2)	286	236
August	137	101	71	62	85	79	12	11	(2)	(2)	306	253
September	135	100	70	60	84	79	12	10	(2)	(2)	302	249
October	145 ^r	107	80	70	76	71	12	11	(2)	(2)	314 ^r	259
November	138	102 ^r	75	64	75	70	11	10	(2)	(2)	299	246
December	126 ^r	93 ^r	61	52	77	72	10	9	(2)	(2)	275 ^r	226 ^r
2004:												
January	130	95	59	51	89	84	11	10	(2)	(2)	290	240

^pPreliminary. ^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JANUARY 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	108,000	130,000	79,500	95,300
Integrated aluminum companies	58,800	58,800	51,000	51,000
Independent mill fabricators	74,600	89,500	69,700	83,600
Foundries	9,240	11,100	8,320	9,980
Other consumers	340	408	340	408
Total	251,000	290,000	209,000	240,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN 2004¹

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ²	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	18,900	88,900	87,000	20,800
Can stock clippings	2,060	20,700	20,400	2,380
Other clippings	5,050 ^r	7,940	8,050	4,940
Borings and turnings	4,970 ^r	16,500	16,400	5,030
Dross and skimmings	2,670	31,300	31,300	2,670
Total new scrap	33,600 ^r	165,000	163,000	35,800
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, clippings	11,600 ^r	31,800	31,700	11,700
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,550 ^r	2,120	1,900	1,770
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	14,200	44,800	44,400	14,500
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,220 ^r	9,260	9,260	3,220
Total old scrap	30,600 ^r	87,900	87,300	31,200
Sweated pig	137	892	882	147
Total all classes	64,300 ^r	254,000	251,000	67,200

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS
IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2004^{1, 2}

(Metric tons)

	January			
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die-cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,550 ^r	1,730	1,810	3,470
380 and variations	6,650 ^r	20,200	20,300	6,630
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,070	4,030	4,050	2,050
No. 319 and variations	4,820 ^r	8,620	8,670	4,770
F-132 alloy and variations	1,390	2,850	2,730	1,510
Al-Zn alloys	39 ^r	75	75	40
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	168	168	91
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	191	191	--
Other ³	4,730 ^r	7,170	7,760	4,130
Wrought alloys:				
Extrusion billets	10,100	16,700	16,700	10,100
Total all alloys	33,400 ^r	61,800	62,400	32,800
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	7,270	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,050	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	556	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁴	XX	50,900	XX	XX

^rRevised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁴No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2003¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January-December	December	January-December	December	January-December	December	January-December
Argentina	8,900	70,300	35	1,000	--	495	8,930	71,800
Australia	4,290	78,100	1	116	--	9	4,290	78,200
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
Bahrain	79	3,010	1,330	15,500	--	--	1,410	18,500
Belgium	--	7	1,610	10,300	--	(2)	1,610	10,300
Brazil	3,740	72,100	906	16,500	--	3,880	4,650	92,500
Canada	164,000	1,730,000	31,800	439,000	26,900	306,000	223,000	2,480,000
China	44	559	2,450	25,200	--	328	2,490	26,100
France	17	714	487	6,020	21	497	524	7,230
Germany	350	10,400	5,020	67,300	17	721	5,390	78,500
Ghana	--	--	--	--	--	592	--	592
Hungary	--	--	657	3,460	--	--	657	3,460
Italy	--	(2)	351	2,260	--	--	351	2,260
Japan	35	294	971	8,240	680	1,070	1,690	9,600
Korea, Republic of	--	12	216	6,380	--	--	216	6,390
Mexico	116	3,680	1,680	17,200	5,840	71,200	7,640	92,100
Netherlands	75	670	333	2,600	--	289	408	3,560
Norway	153	502	4	160	--	--	156	662
Russia	39,700	627,000	2,760	45,200	--	5,160	42,500	677,000
South Africa	3,770	9,380	3,260	36,700	--	--	7,030	46,100
Spain	14	128	134	764	--	21	148	913
Sweden	--	(2)	290	3,050	18	313	308	3,360
Switzerland	--	2,090	464	4,530	--	(2)	464	6,620
United Arab Emirates	5,370	51,400	--	3	--	719	5,370	52,100
United Kingdom	12	4,040	369	3,050	99	3,820	480	10,900
Venezuela	10,900	182,000	1,600	23,800	1,140	7,970	13,600	214,000
Other	805	18,500	6,820	84,600	3,460	37,400	11,100	140,000
Total	243,000	2,870,000	63,500	822,000	38,200	440,000	344,000	4,130,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN DECEMBER 2003¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December	December	January- December
Australia	5	160	175	1,800	--	126	180	2,080
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	4	--	--	--	4
Belgium	12	282	316	4,240	2	42	330	4,560
Brazil	--	88	731	16,400	--	(2)	731	16,500
Canada	8,970	120,000	30,300	476,000	10,200	141,000	49,500	737,000
China	12	183	2,400	24,700	20,600	244,000	23,100	269,000
Czech Republic	--	--	17	224	--	--	17	224
Dominican Republic	--	60	64	905	--	--	64	965
France	(2)	107	257	4,600	--	5	257	4,720
Germany	2	949	405	5,080	--	372	407	6,400
Hong Kong	9	110	154	4,960	1,310	22,500	1,470	27,600
India	12	24	16	285	379	4,280	407	4,580
Israel	1	17	166	2,430	--	3	167	2,450
Italy	1	9	149	2,290	--	3	150	2,310
Japan	202	3,790	744	6,950	2,040	27,100	2,990	37,800
Korea, Republic of	21	317	1,070	16,100	3,820	45,000	4,900	61,400
Malaysia	(2)	88	90	1,230	24	1,330	114	2,650
Mexico	10,100	85,800	9,840	116,000	4,340	51,700	24,300	254,000
Netherlands	20	291	69	672	--	55	89	1,020
Russia	58	64	28	114	--	--	86	178
Saudi Arabia	1	2	1,800	11,500	--	--	1,800	11,500
Singapore	13	163	96	1,440	14	85	123	1,690
Spain	17	99	32	1,430	--	149	48	1,680
Sweden	1	4	21	381	--	--	21	384
Taiwan	21	190	450	10,300	2,170	27,800	2,640	38,300
Thailand	16	41	247	5,730	22	1,900	285	7,670
Ukraine	--	(2)	--	31	--	--	--	31
United Kingdom	96	479	766	9,920	--	464	862	10,900
Venezuela	--	7	347	2,340	23	42	370	2,390
Other	180	735	1,220	17,500	863	8,760	2,260	27,000
Total	19,700	214,000	52,000	746,000	45,900	577,000	118,000	1,540,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.